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RMP
MONITORING PLAN

for the

Hollister Planning Area

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RMP

MONITORING PLAN

FOR THE

HOLLISTER PLANNING AREA

David E. Howell

David E. Howell, Hollister Resource Area Manager

2/15/85

Date

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MONITORING PLAN

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose and need of this monitoring plan is to ensure that resource management decisions and policies achieve the management goals as stated in the Hollister Resource Management Plan (RMP). Annual evaluation of data collected through the monitoring plan will be the basis for management to determine if the plan is still valid, needs amendment, or requires revision to bring it in line with new policies and/or issues.

MONITORING PLAN OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the Hollister RMP Monitoring Plan are to determine that:

A. Management decisions in the RMP are being implemented;

B. Planning area-wide and management area specific policies are being followed;

C. Implementation of management decisions and policies are achieving the desired management goals;

D. Resource information used in formulating management decisions was accurate;

E. New information is needed for plan revision;

F. Implementation sequence is or is not still appropriate in light of existing funding, personnel, etc.

TRACKING PROCEDURES:

1. Monitoring will be done annually by June first of each year so data may be used in the PAWP and AWP process (for budgeting purposes).

2. The Goal is to track each Management Decision in the RMP by type of decision (Decisions will be grouped as: 1. Guidance, or 2. Task oriented)

3. Each decision will be identified (given a decision number); appropriate Monitoring objectives identified (A thru F above); resource/component, techniques, units, frequency, and information warranting a decision change outlined; action taken documented (if applicable); monitoring expectations stated (in relation to each decision); monitoring results recorded; and further recommendations formulated.

4. Monitoring records will be periodically used, along with other data, by the Area Manager to determine whether the RMP is still valid, needs amendment, or requires revision.

5. The prioritized implementation chart and attached summary worksheets will be used to track implementation of decisions. Each specialist shall be responsible for tracking their respective portion(s) and completing the worksheets on an annual basis.

USE OF SUMMARY WORKSHEETS

The worksheets are arranged by MA along with respective decisions. Certain sections of the summary worksheets have been filled out in advance. These sections cover monitoring objectives, resource/components to be monitored on the ground (if required) and monitoring expectations. See the attached worksheet example for a more detailed explanation of each section.

When using the worksheets, each specialist should make a copy of their respective portions and use these copies for annual reporting purposes. Do not write on or fill in the originals. Copies of completed summary worksheets will be placed in a separate binder on a FY basis. As task oriented decisions and support needs are accomplished, each specialist should also line out and initial the appropriate decision pages in this monitoring plan. The implementation chart should also be revised annually as decisions are implemented, revised or re-prioritized.

WORKSHEET Example

LAND USE PLAN MONITORING RECORD

DATE _____

BY _____

MANAGEMENT AREA: _____

DECISION NUMBER: _____ TYPE OF DECISION: _____
G (Guidance), T (Task)

ACTION(S) TAKEN: Was the decision complied with and/or implemented, to what extent (progress)? Pay particular attention to support needs that are tied to a decision.

MONITORING OBJECTIVE (A,B,C,D,E,F,- refer to monitoring plan for definitions): ____

RESOURCE/COMPONENT TO BE MONITORED (refer to Table 1 in monitoring plan): For those decisions requiring on the ground monitoring (how, when, where, what).

MONITORING EXPECTATIONS: What management expects as feedback from the specialist(s). What each specialist should be looking for when monitoring/tracking the decision.

MONITORING RESULTS: What were the results of compliance with and/or implementation of the decision (or actions taken in order to implement or comply with the decision)?

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS: Need for revision, changes in scheduling or priority of implementation, etc.

Note: Raw data will be contained in study/activity plan files. This worksheet is intended to serve as a summary write-up for monitoring results. The intent is to be brief, however, you may continue on additional sheets as necessary.

TABLE 1

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Workmonths
1. Livestock Forage	a. Actual Use	AMPs in 5, 6,7,8,9,10	Operator submits actual use on Form 4412-8	Numbers livestock (AUMs)	Annually (at end of grazing season)	Consider with temperature and precipitation in determining why utilization is at monitored level	.25
	b. Cover	AMPs in 5, 6,7,8,9,10	Range trend plot data, Form 4412-9 and photo plot	Percent of total surface area	Annually (at end of grazing season)	Decrease of perennial grasses and shrubs in areas where important components (decrease of 5 percent or more), correlate with 2d and 3f	1.00
	c. Utilization (residual mulch)	AMPs in MAs 5,6,7, 8,9,10 and specified "M" category allotments in MAs 4,5,9, 10,15	Clipping/ocular reconnaisance from photo index	Lbs/ac. residual mulch	Annually (periodically through grazing season)	Residual mulch is more or less than 700 lbs/ac.	1.00
	d. Season of Use	AMPs in MAs 5,6,7 8,9,10 and specified "M" category allotments in MAs 4,5,9, 10,15	Direct observation of livestock use in important wildlife areas	Compliance, degree of browsing and use of riparian areas	Annually Periodically through grazing season)	Collected data shows moderate to heavy browsing on saltbrush, damage to important riparian areas or other livestock/wildlife competition	——— (in conjunction with 1b, 1c, and 2d
	e. Temperature, Precipitation	AMPs in MAs 5,6,7, 8,9,10	Existing rainguages, general climatological data from NOAA	Inches precip, degrees F	Annually	Consider with actual use in determining why utilization is at monitored level	.25

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Workmonths
2. Wildlife	a. Deer population trends, distribution and harvest	AMPs in MAs 3,5 8,10,12 13,15	CDFG herd composition counts, sex and age ratios, spot kill returns, check stations	Numbers	Annually by CDFG	Trends (up or down) in big game population characteristics which appear to be unusual	------
	b. Big-game habitat condition and trend	Prescribed burn areas on HMPs in MAs 3,5, 8,10,12,13, 15	Direct observation of browse utilization and pellet groups	Degree of use on new growth and relative abundance of pellet groups	Annually (coop with CDFG)	Browse utilization and/or deer day use shows little or no use or use that is unusually heavy.	.5
	c. Upland game population trends, harvest	AMPs in MAs 6,7,9	CDFG brood counts, check stations	Numbers	Annually by CDFG	Trends (up or down) in upland game populations which appear to be unusual	------
	d. Upland game habitat condition and trend	AMPs in MAs 6,7,9	Saltbrush transects-(100' line transect for cover), degree of livestock browsing, age and form class recorded on Form 6630-2	Percent of total surface area, number	Biennially (at end of grazing season)	Decrease of 2 percent in total cover, heavy browsing or decreased vigor; may require change in grazing practices if attributable to grazing (correlate with range monitoring and climatological data, fire history, etc.)	.5
	e. Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	ACECs in MAs 6,7, 9,11	Direct observation of animals, ocular recon of habitat areas and condition, presence of rodent use	Numbers (relative abundance based on sightings) numbers of rodent burrows	Biennially (May-June)	Trends indicating a decline in populations or habitat degradation (compare with range and ORV monitoring, etc.)	.5

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Workmonths
	f. San Joaquin kit fox	ACECs in MAs 6,7, 9,11	Observation of den sites, use and condition, occular recon of habitat and night spotlighting	Numbers of dens, relative abundance based on den use and individual sightings	Biennially (June-July)	Trends indicating a decline in populations or habitat degradation (compare with range and ORV monitoring, etc.)	.5
	g. Giant kangaroo rat	ACEC in MA 6,7, 9	Observation of colonies and burrows, use and condition, ocular recon of habitat	Numbers of active colonies	Biennially (June-July)	Trends indicating a decline in populations or habitat degradation (compare with range and ORV monitoring, etc.)	.5
	h. San Joaquin dune beetle	ACEC MA 9	Sample sand dune locations with wire-mesh screen, note habitat conditions.	Numbers (relative abundance)	Biennially (June-July)	Trends indicating a decline in populations or habitat degradation (compare with range and ORV monitoring, etc.)	.5

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	workmonths
3. Vegetation	a. Serpentine endemics: - San benito evening primrose - rayless layia - talus fritillary	ACEC in MA 8	Direct observation of known and potential habitat, photo plots for evening primrose	Number (relative abundance), habitat conditions	Annually (during flowering period)	Trends indicating serious decline in population or habitat degradation due to ORV use or other practices (correlate with climatological and other monitoring data, ie. ORV)	1.0
	b. Other sensitive plants: - slender pentachaeta - Carmel Valley bush-mallow - Salinas Valley gold-fields - Hickman's checker mallow - Hardam's evening primrose - one-awned chorizanthe - San antonio collinsia - San Luis lupine	HMPS in: MA 3,8,12 MA 3,13 MA 3,12 MA 13	Direct observation of habitat areas	Number (relative abundance), habitat conditions	Every 5 years (during flowering period)	Trends indicating decline or increase (possible de-listing) in population or habitat degradation (correlate with climatological data and other monitoring data, i.e., range, fire, etc.)	.5
	c. Green fiddleneck	ACEC in MA 6,8,9	Direct observation of habitat areas	Number (relative abundance), habitat conditions	Every 5 years (during flowering period)	Trends indicating decline or increase (possible de-listing) in population or habitat degradation (correlate with climatological data and other monitoring data, i.e., range, fire, etc.)	.25
	d. Big sagebrush community	MA 8,9	Direct observation, map distribution, note vigor, condition	Area covered (extent of community)	Every 5 years	Trends indicating decline in extent of population	.25
	e. Desert disjunct community (sand dunes)	MA 9	Direct observation of sand dunes, photo plots at exclosure, note vigor and condition of plant communities	Area covered (extent of community)	Biennially	Trends indicating decline in extent of population	.25

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting A Decision Change	Workmonths
Vegetation (cont.)	f. Desert needlegrass community.	AMP in MA8	Range Trend plot data, Form 4412-9 and photo plot.	Percent of total surface area.	Annually (at end of grazing season).	Decrease of 5 percent or more may require changes in grazing practices.	----- (in conjunction with 1b)
	g. Serpentine Conifer forests.	San Benito Mtn. Natural Area (MA8)	Direct observation, photo index.	Condition, trend.	Every 5 years.	Obvious decrease in conifer cover, obvious increase in fuel loading, stagnation or other unusual characteristics	.25
	h. Chaparral communities: prescribed burn areas	MAS 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13	Direct observation of vegetative response, photo points.	Species composition, abundance, trend.	Annually first 2 years, every 5 years thereafter until reburn (May-June).	Fire-adapted sensitive plant species and/or obligate seeders (important to big-game and chaparral diversity) germinate and survive.	1.0
4. Watershed and soils	a. Riparian zones along stream banks	Clear Creek (MA 8)	Photo plots and Direct observation	Stability, condition and trend	Annually	Obvious degradation of stream channels and/or riparian areas that can be attributed to ORV use or another surface disturbing activity.	0.5
	b. Soil erosion by water in ORV use areas	Clear Creek (MA 8)	Erosion pin and Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) transects, Photo plots of selected representative areas.	Condition and trend, Soil loss (tons/acre/year).	Annually	Serious off-site soil loss that can be attributed to ORV use or another surface distrurbing activity.	1.0
	c. Soil erosion by water in prescribed burn areas.	MAs 3,4,5, 8,9,10,12, 13.	Erosion pin and USLE transects, Photo plots of selected representative areas.	Condition & trend, Soil loss (tons/acre/year).	Annually for first two years, every five years thereafter until reburn.	Serious off-site soil loss that can be attributed to the effects of a prescribed burn.	

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Work-Month
Watershed & Soils (cont.)	d. Water quality & sedimentation	Clear Creek (MA 8)	To be Determined. (Techniques will be further defined by the Clear Creek Coordinated Activity Plan. The use of stream guaging stations has been proposed for Clear Creek and the San Benito River. The installation and maintenance of these proposed station would be costly and need to be fully justified for use. Cost sharing of the project has been proposed with the San Benito County Flood Control and Water Conservation District).			Serious off-site water quality problems that can be attributed to ORV use or another surface disturbing activity.	To be determined
	e. Unique Soil study areas	Clear Creek ACEC (MA 8)	Direct observations, photo plots, erosion pins and USLE transects.	Site condition and trend, Soil loss (tons/acre/ year.	Annually	Site degradation due to ORV use or another surface disturbing activity or management practice. (Area could be used to correlate ORV impact monitoring).	0.5
	f. Slopes exceeding 50 percent gradients.	MAs 3,5	Direct observation in course of other duties when visiting areas.	Degree of compliance	Periodi-cally	Develop criteria to ensure that undue and unnecessary damage to natural resources is not taking place on steep slopes.	
5. Air Quality	a. Asbestos hazard	ACEC in MA 8	Evaluate effectiveness of awareness program and voluntary compliance with precautionary measures through individual contact (documented in patrol logs) and questionnaire	Visitor contracts, percent compliance/ awareness.	Contacts on continuing basis with patrols, question-naire every 3 years.	Collected data indicates awareness and/or voluntary compliance is decreasing, change in OHSA standards and/or new information on hazard specific to the area.	1.0
6. Recreation	a. ORV use	MAs 2-15	Aerial photos, photo plots, patrol log and incident report data.	Visitor hours based on vehicle counts, proliferation of roads and trails.	Aerial photos every 5 years, photo plots annually, (clear area only). Patrols on con-tinuing basis (1-2 per weekend)	Collected data reveals non-compliance with ORV designations.	2.0

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Workmonths
	b. General recreation use	MAs 2-15	Patrol log and incident report data, visitor registration boxes at developed sites, note vandalism, trespass, resource damages	Visitor hours based on vehicle counts, visitor requests	Patrols on continuing basis (1-2 per weekend)	Collected data reveals user conflicts, resource damage, safety hazards, increase or decrease in visitor use, need for additional facilities.	1.0
7. Wilderness	a. WSAs	MAs 4,6	Patrol log data, aerial photos.	Number man-caused impacts.	Annually until final wilderness decision by Congress.	Any adverse impact on wilderness values.	1.0
8. Hobby Gem & Minerals	a. Collection areas	ACEC in MA 8.	Direct observation, photo plot(s), user contacts.	Site condition impacts.	Annually	Site degradation or vandalism due to commercial mining operations, ORV use or other practices.	.25
9. Cultural Resources	a. Site damage from erosion and weathering.	CRMPs in MA 8,9,12, 14,15.	Photo plots, direct observation.	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	Significant damage is occurring due to erosion or weathering.	.5
	b. Site damage from human caused impacts.	CRMPs in MA 8,9,12, 14,15.	Photo plots, direct observation.	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	Significant damage is occurring due to human activity (ORV use, grazing, pot hunting, etc.).	
10. Paleontological Resources	a. Resource damage from erosion and weathering	ACEC in MA 6,7,9.	Photo plots, direct observation.	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	Significant damage is occurring due to erosion or weathering.	.5
	b. Site damage from human caused impacts.	ACEC in MA 6,7,9.	Phot plots, direct observation.	Site conditions, impacts	Annually	Significant damage is occurring due to human activity (ORV use, grazing, pot hunting, etc.).	
11. Visual Resources	a. VRM classes	MAs 3,4,6, 7,8,9,10,15	Inspections in conjunction with area patrols, document in patrol logs.	Impacts	Annually (as required)	VRM class integrity is being compromised.	----- (in conjunction with 6ab, 7a).

Resource	Component	Location	Technique(s)	Unit of Measure	Frequency	Information Warranting a Decision Change	Workmonths
12. Minerals	a. Mining Plans, APDs, NOIs.	Area-wide	Inspections associated with permitted activities.	Compliance with developed stipulations.	Annually as required (at abandonment, etc.)	Developed stipulations are not effectively protecting resource concerns or other uses.	.5 (will depend on number of permitted actions).
	b. Protective Withdrawals	MAs 4,8,15	Inspections in course of other duties (i.e., patrols).	Number of violations, type, impacts	Annually (as required)	The integrity of the withdrawal is being compromised.	---
13. Fire Mg't	a. Action modification	MAs 3,4,6, 7,8,9,15.	Inspections by Resource Advisors and in course of other duties.	Compliance number and extent of deviations.	Annually (as required)	There are serious problems with compliance.	---
14. Utility/ communication Facilities	a. ROWs	Area-wide	Inspections	Compliance with developed stipulations	Annually (as required)	Developed stipulations are not effectively protecting resource concerns or other uses.	.25 (will depend on number of permitted actions)

TABLE 1 SUMMARY

41 Components listed:

- 31 require annual monitoring.
- 6 require biennial monitoring.
- 4 require monitoring at 5 year intervals.

Will require 19 work-months:

- 15.75 annually.
- 2 biennially (in addition to annual requirements).
- 1.25 every 5 years (in addition to annual requirement).

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